

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7255
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3462

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE

BRASILIA/RIO FOR PHIL WISE

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO NIGERIA: KANO CANCELLATION

REF: STATE 067809

1. AS EXPLAINED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IN TELECON WITH AF/W DIRECTOR TOM SMITH, TWO OF OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGES PROVIDED PROPOSED LINES TO FOLLOW IN EXPLAINING A CANCELLATION OF THE KANO STOP. THOSE MESSAGES WERE LAGOS 3338 OF MARCH 16 AND LAGOS 2893 OF MARCH 8. AS WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHICH OF OUR MESSAGES HAVE BEEN REACHING WHICH RECIPIENTS, FOLLOWING IS A RERUN OF THE KIND OF GUIDANCE WE THINK WOULD SERVE:

2. QUOTE IT HAD BEEN HOPED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT INCLUDE A TRIP TO KANO IN THE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES BEING
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PLANNED FOR HIS VISIT TO NIGERIA. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING TOGETHER REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IN NIGERIA, IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT ADDITIONAL TIME WILL BE REQUIRED TO PERMIT THE TWO HEADS OF STATE TO HAVE FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE TALKS TOGETHER IN LAGOS. BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE THEREFORE AGREED THAT INCLUSION

OF A VISIT TO KANO IS NOT PRACTICABLE. THE ADDITION OF A SECOND DAY TO THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO LAGOS ALSO PROVIDES HIM AND MRS. CARTER WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THEIR ACQUAINTANCE WITH THIS MAJOR AFRICAN CAPITAL AND TO MEET NIGERIANS IN MANY WALKS OF LIFE. PRESIDENT CARTER WILL (FILL IN WITH HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW APRIL 2 SCHEDULE IF IT HAS BEEN AGREED BY TIME OF ANNOUNCEMENT). UNQUOTE

3. THIS GUIDANCE IS OF COURSE MUTE ON THE QUESTIONS WHETHER THERE WERE ANY DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE KANO SCHEDULE (I.E., KADAWA) AND WHETHER GENERAL OBASANJO WOULD ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT CARTER TO KANO. COMMENT ON EITHER OF THESE ISSUES SHOULD BE AVOIDED. WE BELIEVE THE GUIDANCE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

4. WE BELIEVE GUIDANCE ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE FMG. WE NONETHELESS REITERATE OUR REQUEST IN LAGOS 2893 TO CLEAR WITH THE FMG IN ADVANCE THE TEXT OF ANY GUIDANCE WASHINGTON MAY DECIDE TO ISSUE.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR LAGOS FOR APRIL 2 IS UNDERSTANDABLY COMPLICATED BY COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS FMG CONFRONTS IN CONNECTION WITH INVITATIONS
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TO LAGOS SUMMIT ON RHODESIA. GARBA HAS ABANDONED HIS PLAN TO VISIT FRONTLINE CAPITALS SINCE OBASANJO WANTS TO CONTACT HIS FELLOW HEADS OF STATE HIMSELF. IN THE CASE OF NYERERE, WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE HE MAY BE DOING THIS BY TELEPHONE. WITH REGARD TO KAUNDA, KHAMA, AND MACHEL, WE EXPECT HE WOULD USE THE DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL. AS FOR NETO, SATURDAY'S AIR NIGERIA FLIGHT TO LUANDA COULD PROBABLY CARRY A MESSAGE ABOUT AS EFFECTIVELY AS OBASANJO COULD TELEGRAPH IT TO AMBASSADOR MUSA BELLO. AT ANY RATE, FOR REASONS EXPRESSED IN PREVIOUS EMBASSY TELEGRAMS, WE ESTIMATE THE FMG WOULD BE RELIEVED IF NETO FOUND REASON NOT REPEAT NOT TO ATTEND. AS FOR CALLAGHAN'S POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE, WASHINGTON AND LONDON WILL BE BETTER AWARE THAN WE ARE OF THE CHANCES OF HIS PARTICIPATION.
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